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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of : HIRAI, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/961,414  
Filed : September 25, 2001  
For : ENTEROTOXIN ADSORBENT, METHOD OF ADSORPTIVE  
REMOVAL, AND ADSORPTION APPARATUS  
Group Art Unit : 1645  
Examiner : FORD, V.

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 23313-1450

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This is in response to the Advisory Action dated January 23, 2003 and is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) as well as a request and payment for a two (2) month extension of time. Applicants respectfully assert the subject application is in condition for allowance and request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing remarks.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Thrice Amended) A method for adsorptive removal of an enterotoxin in a body fluid

which comprises contacting an enterotoxin-containing body fluid with an enterotoxin adsorbent to adsorb and remove the enterotoxin, wherein said enterotoxin is at least one selected from the group consisting of staphylococcal enterotoxins A, B, C1, C2, C3, D, E, G, H and I,

said adsorbent comprising a compound with a log P, in which P represents a partition coefficient in an octanol-water system, value of not less than 2.50 as immobilized